

C. Remarks

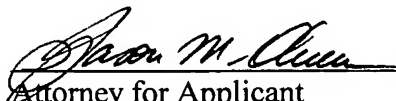
The claims are 14, 16-18, 20 and 22-25, with claim 14 being the sole independent claim. Non-elected claims 1-13 have been cancelled. Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 15, 19 and 21, which have also been cancelled. Claims 16, 18 and 22 have been amended to reflect the cancellation of claims 15, 19 and 21. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

Claims 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from U.S. Patent No. 6,007,005 (Gonzales). Without acquiescence, and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claims 16, 20 and 22, which the Examiner deemed patentable, into claim 14. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in allowable form.

Wherefore, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and expedient passage to issue of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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